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Message Text

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17
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 H-02 /060 W
---------- 011556
R 120540Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0807

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJ: CIVAIR: TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (TIA) CHARTERS

REFS: A) STATE 134277; B) STATE 128652

1. WE HAVE CONVEYED SUBSTANCE REF A TO TOYA, JCAB INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION. TOYA REITERATED JCAB VIEW THAT ASIAN-AMERICAN RECREATION CLUB (A-ARC) IS NOT AN AFFINITY GROUP FORMED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TRAVEL. ON CONTRARY, HE SAID TRAVEL SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE CLUB'S PRIMARY - IF NOT ONLY - REASON FOR EXISTENCE. IN THAT CONNECTION HE NOTED THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF CLUB MEMBERS (5,000 OUT

OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 40,000) PLAN TO TRAVEL THIS YEAR. HE ALSO STATED THAT MEMBERSHIP APPEARS TO BE OPEN TO ANYONE PAYING NOMINAL DUES OF FIVE DOLLARS PER YEAR.

2. TOYA ALSO SAID JCAB SUSPECTS (BUT DOES NOT HAVE ACTUAL PROOF UP TO NOW) THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF IRREGULARITIES IN OPERATION OF PREVIOUS CHARTERS FOR A-ARC BY TIA. HE NOTED, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, THAT WHILE TIA NEARLY ALWAYS FILES FOR ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL OF GROUPS ORIGINATING IN U.S., RETURNING GROUPS ARE BELIEVED SOMETIMES TO INCLUDE JAPAN-ORIGINATING PASSENGERS. HE SAID TIA HAD BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE JCAB WITH DATA ON WHICH IT COULD VERIFY CHARTER GROUP

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PASSENGERS AGAINST CLUB MEMBERSHIP LISTS, BUT THAT TIA HAD NOT SUBMITTED SUCH DATA IN SATISFACTORY FORM.

3. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT IF THERE WERE IN FACT IRREGULARITIES IN

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TIA'S CHARTER PROGRAM AT THIS END, JCAB UNDOUBTEDLY HAD RIGHT, AND INDEED OBLIGATION, TO SEE THAT REASONABLE CORRECTIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN. HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED THAT CENTRAL QUESTION AT ISSUE IS CHARTERWORTHINESS OF A-ARC, AND THAT ON THIS POINT USCAB IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN JCAB TO EVALUATE CLUB'S BONA FIDES. WE RESTATED USCAB'S WILLINGNESS TO REVIEW GROUP'S BONA FIDES AND URGED THAT UNTIL ISSUE IS SETTLED, AND ESPECIALLY TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS ALREADY TICKETED ON PLANNED FLIGHTS LATER THIS MONTH, THAT JCAB CONTINUE TO PERMIT TIA TO HANDLE A-ARC CHARTERS.

4. TOYA SAID HE UNDERSTANDS U.S. JURISPRUDENTIAL CONCEPT OF INNOCENCE UNTIL GUILT IS PROVED, BUT NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY "THE JAPANESE WAY." HE NEVERTHELESS INDICATED THAT JCAB WOULD APPROVE RETURN FLIGHTS FOR GROUPS ALREADY IN JAPAN AND WOULD RECONSIDER ITS BAN ON FURTHER A-ARC CHARTERS IN LIGHT OF OUR REPRESENTATION. (WE HAVE ADVISED TIA/JAPAN REP TO BE SURE THAT APPLICATIONS ARE FILED FOR RETURNING GROUPS.)

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FAVORABLE JCAB ACTION ON TIA'S REMAINING PROGRAM OF A-ARC CHARTERS, BUT WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUTCOME UNLESS JCAB DOUBTS ABOUT THE CLUB CAN BE DISPELLED ON BASIS OF AFFIRMATIVE FINDING BY USCAB, AFTER ACTUAL INVESTIGATION, THAT GROUP IS CHARTERWORTHY. AGAIN RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT USCAB ACCEPT TIA'S OFFER TO DEMONSTRATE CLUB'S CHARTERWORTHINESS, AS INDICATED PARA 2 REF B.
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